

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### Senate Committee Approves Proposed Food Law Amendment

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, following a hearing on Thursday, February 7, unanimously ordered a favorable report on the bill (S. 4800) introduced by Senator McNary, which would amend the Food and Drugs Act so as to require the labeling of low-grade canned foods to show that they are low-grade.

The Senate bill is identical with the House bill (H. R. 15218) introduced by Representative Mapes, on which the House Committee on Agriculture also made a favorable report.

### Army to Buy Canned Foods

The Quartermaster Supply Officer at First Avenue and 58th St., Brooklyn, New York, is advertising for bids, to be opened February 20, for various subsistence supplies, including canned foods. Copies of the schedule (No. 626-29-150) on which to submit bids may be obtained from the above address. Canners desiring to receive notices of these requests for bids direct from the Quartermaster Supply Officer at Brooklyn should communicate with him asking to be placed on his mailing list.

### Truck Crop Markets

Forwardings of apples during the week ending February 2 were 1,700 cars, as against 1,140 a year ago, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Orange movement approximated 2,100 cars, an increase of one-third compared with the same week in 1928. The total of 925 cars of grapefruit represented a gain of 60 per cent over the corresponding record for last season. Lettuce movement increased to 1,100 cars for the week, while potato forwardings reached 4,580 cars. Decreases for

some other lines offset the gains, and left the combined movement of 21 leading products at 15,030 cars, the same as the week before.

The tomato season for Bahama neared an end, and imports from those islands last week decreased to a dozen carloads. Cuba sent only 32 cars, while arrivals from Mexico decreased slightly to 140. Florida forwardings were continuously increasing, and totaled 200 cars for the 7-day period.

Heavy production of cabbage is indicated by the report of 205,100 tons in three States shipping during the winter and early spring. Florida is estimated to have 39,000 tons, compared with 16,000 last season. The winter crop in Louisiana is about one-fourth lighter than last year and may total 38,700 tons, while Texas is expected to have 127,400 tons, or nearly 40 per cent more than in 1928. Shipments from Florida last week increased to 210 cars, but the Texas output dropped temporarily to 270 cars.

Shipments of 260 cars of sweet potatoes were relatively light, when contrasted with 435 that moved during late January, 1928. Markets continued firm, with Tennessee now exceeding any other individual State as a source of shipped-in supply.

## CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Jan. 27 Feb. 2 1929	Jan. 20-26 1929	Jan. 29 Feb. 4 1928	Total this season to Feb. 2	Total last season to Feb. 4	Total last season
Apples, total .....	1,700	1,773	1,144	108,589	80,353	93,094
Eastern .....	619	893	542	54,331	39,777	44,415
Western .....	861	880	602	53,758	40,576	48,679
Cabbage:						
1929 season .....	483	507	407	1,870	2,021	37,343
1928 season .....	222	431	389	37,343	36,319	39,067
Carrots:						
1929 season .....	184	172	50	2,176	1,323	7,076
1928 season .....	51	69	69	7,076	5,863	6,852
Green peas:						
Domestic .....	14	6	10	433	339	4,680
Imports .....	76	121	72	632	361	987
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic .....	632	874	656	3,619	3,459	33,260
Imports .....	15	16	19	74	69	419
Pears .....	39	23	37	23,861	18,445	18,744
Peppers:						
Domestic .....	29	25	31	111	669	8,569
Imports .....	27	57	47	223	190	743
Spinach .....	346	439	194	4,163	3,293	10,375
String beans:						
Domestic .....	47	24	25	479	1,405	6,686
Imports .....	14	14	0	49	0	2
Sweet potatoes .....	257	278	435	14,907	18,230	23,402
Tomatoes:						
Domestic .....	199	167	79	1,139	866	30,343
Imports .....	184	263	145	2,369	1,820	5,423

## Business Conditions

The volume of business during the week ended February 2, as indicated by check payments, was greater than in the corresponding week of 1928, according to the weekly statement of

the Department of Commerce. Primary distribution of goods, as reflected by car-loadings covering the last reported week, was running substantially higher than a year ago.

The general index of wholesale prices showed a fractional decline from the preceding week but was higher than a year ago. Loans and discounts of Federal reserve member banks showed expansion as compared with both the preceding week and the same week in 1928. Interest rates on call loans averaged higher than in either period. Time money rates showed no change from the previous week, but averaged higher than in the same period of 1928.

Business failures, covering the latest week, showed a gain over the previous week, but were smaller in number than in the same week of 1928.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended January 26 .....	926,188	820,077	240,826	865,285
Preceding week .....	931,899	816,942	238,986	875,961
Corresponding week, 1928 .....	902,664	810,923	244,625	847,106
Corresponding week, 1927 .....	943,879	807,966	245,169	890,744

Canned Food Exports in 1928

Exports of the principal canned foods in 1927 and 1928, as compiled from the records of the Department of Commerce, are shown in the following table:

Articles	1927		1928	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total .....	16,601,934	\$5,913,468	14,693,730	\$5,323,976
Beef .....	2,752,548	912,073	1,999,325	676,110
Pork .....	7,374,301	2,099,634	6,153,157	3,127,689
Sausage .....	3,844,420	1,149,071	2,937,954	683,490
Other .....	2,730,665	832,690	2,603,394	837,087
Canned vegetables, total .....	60,846,399	7,487,483	61,164,766	8,093,883
Asparagus .....	15,363,812	2,250,512	17,717,985	2,705,401
Baked beans, and pork and beans .....	14,426,356	1,224,110	14,016,806	1,196,384
Corn .....	5,016,685	362,061	6,049,793	582,937
Peas .....	6,166,704	323,504	6,487,092	374,616
Soups .....	23,695,240	2,163,775	28,278,921	2,693,442
Tomatoes .....	6,330,692	382,107	5,849,266	339,690
Other .....	9,904,621	372,419	10,965,196	670,223
Condensed milk .....	34,981,081	5,517,429	38,762,549	6,191,185
Evaporated milk .....	68,047,141	7,193,446	76,798,832	7,004,541
Canned fruits, total .....	247,878,603	22,631,080	305,762,814	26,758,812
Apples and applesauce .....	18,877,611	767,484	21,446,530	1,187,762
Apricots .....	25,917,495	2,476,129	28,765,980	2,643,061
Berries .....	6,901,039	805,565	13,689,870	1,333,985
Cherries .....	1,803,185	392,453	2,302,458	345,836
Peaches .....	78,176,750	6,510,473	96,237,096	7,667,410
Pears .....	61,889,768	6,204,671	78,265,549	7,506,627
Pineapple .....	45,993,434	4,207,633	54,394,344	4,893,306
Prunes .....	3,072,337	323,733	2,331,340	217,774
Other .....	10,248,183	1,084,840	9,130,632	970,581
Salmon .....	88,247,932	6,028,960	40,951,905	7,061,336
Sardines .....	78,489,503	6,817,062	80,232,474	6,522,711

## Imports of Canned Tomatoes

Although imports of canned tomatoes last December were 6,000,000 pounds greater than in December, 1927, the total imports for the year 1928 were about 3,500,000 pounds less than in 1927. Tomato paste imports in December were also greater than in the same month last year, but the imports for the year were 4,540,000 pounds less than in 1927. The imports by months for the last two years are shown in the following table:

1927	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
January .....	9,296,877	\$494,207	1,445,927	\$132,515
February .....	5,489,552	314,841	956,467	96,389
March .....	4,886,876	271,839	1,287,965	121,356
April .....	4,509,082	270,073	1,325,165	146,985
May .....	2,458,147	158,872	814,628	90,624
June .....	2,121,582	187,996	1,168,572	116,527
July .....	2,002,895	118,897	419,685	45,053
August .....	2,728,466	154,074	969,729	97,470
September .....	12,769,183	730,612	1,359,864	121,668
October .....	19,467,120	1,048,814	2,117,567	232,821
November .....	20,530,984	1,071,984	1,278,078	138,595
December .....	10,081,794	525,552	1,357,432	150,016
Total .....	96,241,932	5,305,948	14,833,599	1,489,749
1928				
January .....	12,050,694	689,405	2,219,596	219,000
February .....	7,909,499	446,298	583,266	56,268
March .....	4,346,166	243,038	384,272	42,162
April .....	4,178,502	265,842	455,923	45,651
May .....	4,480,382	236,967	539,099	59,421
June .....	3,373,619	194,179	430,489	46,346
July .....	2,708,707	169,992	273,581	35,093
August .....	710,144	30,790	525,253	58,973
September .....	3,820,110	202,421	650,354	60,772
October .....	19,321,880	1,046,275	768,028	76,973
November .....	18,762,120	759,672	1,191,580	137,474
December .....	10,157,790	505,573	1,712,208	217,982
Total .....	92,792,091	5,198,472	9,612,496	1,054,029

## National Conference of Grocery Industry Executives

Under the auspices of the Department of Commerce and the Board of Directors of the Louisville Grocery Survey, a conference will be held at the Brown Hotel in Louisville on February 25 and 26, to discuss methods of operation in wholesale and retail distribution developed by the Louisville Survey, and to consider practical plans for their application to distribution problems throughout the nation.

A description of the methods used and the results obtained by their use in the Louisville Survey will be presented by J. W. Millard of the Domestic Commerce Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

The Louisville Survey is a comprehensive fact-finding analysis of grocery distribution problems consisting of six parts as follows: (1) An analysis of wholesale distribution costs; (2) an analysis of retail distribution costs; (3) a census of food distri-

bution by sales volume and cost of doing business; (4) an analysis of consumer demand and preference; (5) a study of business mortality and credit procedure; (6) a study of population characteristics and purchasing power for sections of the Louisville market.

Canners are invited to attend the conference and it is hoped that the industry will be well represented. Arrangements have been made for reduced fares on the certificate plan. When a ticket is bought to Louisville, request should be made for a certificate, which, when validated by the proper official at the conference, will entitle the holder to a half-fare return ticket.

### Spinach Canned in 1928

The Department of Commerce announces that, according to data collected at the annual census of canneries, the total pack of spinach in the United States in 1928 was equivalent to 2,950,803 standard cases of No. 2½ cans, an increase of 31.7 per cent as compared with 2,240,553 standard cases for 1927. Although a few packers failed to report, the statistics are believed to be practically complete.

The actual number of cases of spinach packed in 1928 was 3,257,348, of which 126,297 cases were of No. 1 cans (48 cans to the case), 735,162 cases of No. 2 cans (24 to the case), 1,562,176 cases of No. 2½ cans (24 to the case), 693,052 cases of No. 10 cans (6 to the case), and 140,661 cases of cans of other sizes (8-oz., 10-oz., 12-oz., Picnic, No. 1 E. O., No. 1 tall, No. 2 tall, and No. 3) and glass jars of 20-oz. and under.

The total number of reports received from canners packing spinach was 68—30 for California, 11 for Maryland, 8 for New York, and the remaining 19 for 13 other States.

The following presents statistics for all States for which separate figures can be given without disclosing the output of individual establishments:

States	Actual number of cases as reported		Equivalent number of standard cases	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
California .....	2,888,580	2,041,437	2,025,007	1,888,916
Maryland .....	199,283	301,061	177,959	183,249
New York .....	118,415	74,961	103,049	63,860
Other States .....	56,150	121,312	42,788	108,628
United States ...	3,257,348	2,488,371	2,950,803	2,240,553

### Federal Board Issues Specifications for Fruits

The Federal Specifications Board has issued revised master specifications for canned apples, apricots, cherries, peaches, pears, pineapple and prunes. Requirements of these specifica-

tions are mandatory on the War Department, Navy Department and Marine Corps.

Each of the specifications has the general requirement that all deliveries shall conform, in every respect, to the provisions of the Federal Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, and amendments thereto, and to subsequent decisions of the United States Department of Agriculture.

As to method of inspection and tests, each specification provides that chemical analysis, if required by the purchaser in the examination or testing of samples and deliveries under this specification, will be made by methods of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists in effect on date of invitation for bids.

Packing and marking of shipments, it is provided, shall be in accordance with commercial practice unless otherwise specified.

The provisions of the specifications as to grade, material and detail requirements are as follows for the various products:

**APPLES—Specification No. 604a**

*Grade.*—Shall be of one grade only.

*Material.*—Shall be prepared from fully matured apples of the latest crop and of good cooking variety.

*Detail requirements.*—Shall be thoroughly washed and cleaned, well peeled, cored and evenly cut into fairly uniform pieces not smaller than eighths; shall be practically free from decay, bruised or discolored stock, and damage caused by disease, insect, mechanical or other means. Shall be solid pack.

**APRICOTS—Specification No. 605a**

*Grade.*—Shall be of one grade only.

*Material.*—Shall be of choice quality of the latest crop.

*Detail requirements.*—Fruit shall be halved, pitted, clean and sound, of high color and of good flavor, ripe yet retaining its form and free from blemishes serious for the grade; halves shall be uniform in size and symmetrical. There shall be not less than 23 nor more than 30 pieces of fruit to a No. 2½ can, and not less than 83, nor more than 108 pieces to a No. 10 can. Cans shall be well filled with fruit and pack in sugar (sucrose) syrup testing not less than 40° Balling or Brix, at a temperature of 60° F., at time of packing, and not less than 22° (average) at time of cutout.

**CHERRIES—Specification No. 606a**

*Grade.*—Shall be of one grade only.

*Material.*—Shall be either white cherries, black cherries, or Royal Anne Cherries, of choice quality of the latest crop.

*Detail requirements.*—Fruit shall be clean, sound and ripe, free from blemishes serious for the grade, uniform in size and color, and unpitted.



Cans shall be well filled with fruit packed in sugar (sucrose) syrup testing not less than 30° Balling or Brix, at a temperature of 60° F., at time of packing, and not less than 20° (average) at time of cutout.

**PEACHES—Specification No. 607a**

*Grade.*—Shall be of one grade only.

*Material.*—Shall be of the Yellow Cling or Freestone variety, of choice quality of the latest crop.

*Detail requirements.*—Fruit shall be halved, well peeled and pitted, of high color and of good flavor, ripe yet retaining its form, with tolerance for pieces showing rough edges on account of being fully ripe, and free from blemishes serious for the grade; halves shall be uniform in size and symmetrical. There shall be not less than 10 nor more than 15 pieces of fruit to a No. 2½ can, and not less than 36 nor more than 54 pieces to a No. 10 can. Cans shall be well filled with fruit and packed in sugar (sucrose) syrup testing not less than 40° Balling or Brix, at a temperature of 60° F., at time of packing, and not less than 20° (average) at time of cutout.

**PEARS—Specification No. 608a**

*Grade.*—Shall be of one grade only.

*Material.*—Shall be of the Bartlett variety, of choice quality of the latest crop.

*Detail requirements.*—Fruit shall be halved, clean, sound, well peeled and cored, of fine color and of good flavor, ripe yet not mushy and free from blemishes serious for the grade; halves shall be uniform in size and symmetrical. There shall be not less than 10 nor more than 18 pieces of fruit to a No. 2½ can, and not less than 36 nor more than 65 pieces to a No. 10 can. Cans shall be well filled with fruit and packed in sugar (sucrose) syrup testing not less than 30° Balling or Brix, at a temperature of 60° F., at time of packing, and not less than 18° (average) at time of cutout.

**PINEAPPLE—Specification No. 609a**

*Grade.*—Shall be of one grade only.

*Material.*—Shall be prepared from fully matured, "Fancy Sliced" Hawaiian pineapple of the latest crop.

*Detail requirements.*—Fruit shall be reasonable uniform in color, free from eyes, specks and blemishes; slices shall be uniform in size and symmetrical. Cans shall be well filled with fruit and packed in sugar (sucrose) syrup testing not less than 24° (average) Balling or Brix, at a temperature of 60° F., at time of cutout.

**PRUNES—Specification No. 610a**

*Grade.*—Shall be of one grade only.

*Material.*—Shall be properly matured, clean, sound fruit of the latest crop, dried in accordance with the usual commercial practice.

*Detail requirements.*—Shall be whole, separate and of good color, odor and flavor. Shall count either 30 to 40, 40 to 50, or 50 to 60 prunes to the pound after draining over an 8 mesh screen to two minutes. Can shall be

well filled with fruit and packed in sugar (sucrose) syrup testing not less than 40° Balling or Brix, at a temperature of 60° F., at time of cutout.

Copies of these specifications may be obtained from the Federal Specifications Board, c/o Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

#### Composition of Fresh Fruits Shown in New Summary Tables

New summary tables on the chemical composition of fresh fruits have been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Data of 67 kinds and varieties of fruits and 31 fruit juices are included in this compilation by the Department's Bureau of Home Economics. Copies of these tables may be obtained free as long as the supply lasts by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture for Circular No. 50-C, "Proximate Composition of Fresh Fruits."

#### Cherry Spraying and Fruit Weight

At the meeting of the American Phytopathological Society in New York recently Messrs. Keitt and Wilson of the Wisconsin Experiment Station reported on experiments in cherry spraying.

"Five years of comparison of the weight of fruit obtained after spraying cherry trees with lime-sulfur and Bordeaux mixtures, indicates a result favorable in general to lime-sulfur. During the five-year period 1924-1928 the increased weight of fruit in lime-sulfur plots over Bordeaux plots ran 15, 13, 9, 16, and 8 per cent, respectively. The increase was found to be in the flesh and not in the pit."

#### Scientific Articles Reprinted

Two articles by members of the Association's laboratory staff for publication in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, and printed in their issue of December, 1928, have been reprinted by the Association. These articles are:

"Chemistry and the Canning Industry," by W. D. Bigelow.  
"Factors Affecting the Relative Potentials of Tin and Iron,"  
by E. F. Kohman and N. H. Sanborn.

Copies of these reprints will be sent to interested members upon request.